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PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/522,788  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

PATENT  
FINAL

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) A catheter for the treatment of arrhythmia; comprising a catheter shaft having a double-cylinder structure in which an inner shaft is slidably inserted into an outer shaft, a balloon attached between the tip portion of the inner shaft and the tip portion of the outer shaft in a straddling state, a pair of high frequency current-carrying electrodes of which at least one electrode is disposed inside the balloon, and a temperature sensor monitoring the temperature inside the balloon; wherein the catheter is configured such that a tube that is softer than the inner shaft is provided at the tip portion of the inner shaft, and a pipe having radiation shielding properties is connected to the tips of the inner shaft and the outer shaft respectively, and that the balloon is straddled between the radiation shielding pipes.

15 - 18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A catheter for the treatment of arrhythmia; comprising a catheter shaft having a double-cylinder

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structure in which an inner shaft is slidably inserted into an outer shaft, a balloon attached between the tip portion of the inner shaft and the tip portion of the outer shaft in a straddling state, a pair of high frequency current-carrying electrodes of which at least one electrode is disposed inside the balloon, and a temperature sensor monitoring the temperature inside the balloon; wherein the catheter is configured such that a tube that is softer than the inner shaft is provided at the tip portion of the inner shaft, and an anti-elongation string in parallel with the axial direction of the outer shaft, the tip of the anti-elongation string is secured to the tip of the outer shaft, and the rear end of the anti-elongation string is secured to an operation section provided at the rear end of the outer shaft.

20. (original) The catheter for the treatment of arrhythmia of claim 19, further characterized in that the anti-elongation string comprises a line body made of at least one of polyimide fiber, polyester fiber, polyethylene fiber, carbon fiber, and aramid fiber.

21 - 35. (canceled)